

118 Alpine Drive
Closter, NJ 07624
January 2, 2001

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Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I would urge that the FDA immediately ban the use of human antibiotics in animal feed. To promote faster growth in animals by including antibiotics in their feed may increase profitability, but with an unacceptable danger to us all. This is clearly a case where public health must take precedence over profits.

There has been much discussion of the indiscriminate use of antibiotics as the major factor in the development of drug resistant bacteria. The major causes for this are the widespread use of antibiotics in animal feed and the unnecessary use of antibiotics to treat viral illnesses in humans. A recent article in the New York Times (12/28/00) focused on the second factor, but I believe the first may be an even greater danger, especially for bacterial infections that are food borne such as salmonella and campylobacter. I know that the European Union already has banned the use of antibiotics that are used for treating human beings as a growth-enhancing agent in animal feed. I also have read about the action by the World Health Organization in calling for the rapid and immediate end of antibiotics that are used to treat human beings as growth enhancers for animals.

Considering the great dangers to human health, and the actions of other responsible bodies, as well as the scientific literature on the subject, I see no reason for the FDA to delay in taking action to ban the use of antibiotics in animal feed.

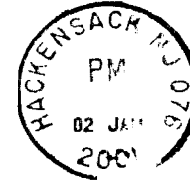
Sincerely,


Irwin Yellowitz

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